

Mountain gorilla twins born in Rwanda

3 June 2011



The twins born in February will be among those baptised but the latest two will only be named at next year's ceremony.

According to a 2010 census, the total number of [mountain gorillas](#) has increased by a quarter over the past seven years to reach more than 780 individuals.

Two-thirds of them are found in the Virunga chain that straddles Rwanda, [Uganda](#) and the Democratic [Republic of Congo](#). They were brought to the attention of the outside world by the renowned US primatologist, the late Dian Fossey.

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A juvenile mountain gorilla leans on the shoulder of an adult male in the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2008. A mountain gorilla in northern Rwanda has given birth to twins, a rare occurrence for an endangered species whose numbers have dwindled to less than 800, officials said Friday.

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"The two babies, one male and one female, were born May 27," said Rica Rwigamba, head of tourism and conservation at the [Rwanda](#) Development Board.

"The two new-borns and their mother Ruvumu are well," she said.

It is only the seventh time in the last 40 years that a gorilla has given birth to twins. Twin gorillas were last born in February.

Twenty-two baby mountain gorillas will be "baptised" in a name-giving ceremony on June 18 in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park.

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